

MILDENHALL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WEST SUFFOLK.

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1940.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Public Health Offices,

Westgate House,

13, Westgate Street,

Bury St. Edmunds.

January, 1942.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Mildenhall,
in the County of West Suffolk.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lord and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable consideration my fifth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health being for the year ending December 31st, 1940. Owing to the War the report has been limited on the instructions of the Minister of Health.

I wish to express my gratitude for the Council's support and my thanks to the Clerk, Mr. F. Dannatt, and the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. L. Trotter, for their assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lord & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT. H. CLAYTON.

M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.,
also Medical Officer of Health Cosford,
Thedwastre and Thingoe Rural Districts,
Newmarket Urban District and
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health,
West Suffolk.

SANITARY INSPECTOR. H. L. Trotter, Cert. R.S.I., F.S.I.A., Heat
and other Foods Certificate, R.S.I., also
Building Surveyor and Petroleum and
Explosives Officer.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Area. | 86,759 acres | | | | |
| | <u>1940</u> | <u>1939</u> | <u>1938</u> | <u>1937</u> | <u>1936</u> |
| Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid-year | 12,970 | (a) 12,440 (b) 12,700 | 12,440 | 12,370 | 12,290 |
| Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book | 3,968 | 3,518 | 3,500 | 3,507 | 3,406 |
| Rateable Value | £45,912 | £44,038 | £43,405 | £42,904 | £38,033 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | £191 | £188 | £174 | £174 | £107 |

- (a) for the calculation of Birth Rates
(b) for the calculation of Death Rates or
the incidence of notifiable diseases

Unemployment during the year was negligible.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

| | <u>1940</u> | <u>1939</u> | <u>1938</u> | <u>1937</u> | <u>1936</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>Live Births.</u> | | | | | |
| Legitimate (I.L.) Total | 197 | 135 | | | |
| Males | 106 | 93 | | | |
| Females | 91 | 92 | | | |
| Illegitimate (I.M.) Total | 5 | 5 | | | |
| Males | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Females | 4 | 4 | | | |
| Legitimate (B.R.) Total | 191 | 182 | 170 | 221 | 176 |
| Males | 102 | 91 | 87 | 111 | 83 |
| Females | 89 | 91 | 83 | 110 | 93 |
| Illegitimate (B.R.) Total | 4 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| Males | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Females | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| TOTAL | 195 | 137 | 175 | 228 | 184 |
| Males | 103 | 92 | 88 | 115 | 87 |
| Females | 92 | 95 | 87 | 113 | 97 |
| Live males per 100 live females born | 112 | 97 | 101 | 102 | 90 |

| | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | 1936 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <u>Stillbirths.</u> | I.L. | B.R. | | | |
| Legitimate. Total | 5 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| Males | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Females | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Illegitimate. Total | 1 (1 male) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
|---------------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Birth Rate. <u>Mildenhall.</u> | 15.0 | 15.0 | 14.1 | 18.4 | 15.0 |
| <u>England & Wales.</u> | 14.6 | 15.0 | 15.1 | 14.7 | 14.8 |

| | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Stillbirth Rate (<u>Mildenhall</u>) per 1000 total (live and still) births | 28.9 | 31.5 | 38.5 | 29.8 | 46.6 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <u>DEATHS.</u> Total | 171 | 140 | 134 | 165 | 174 |
| Males | 92 | 78 | 61 | 98 | 87 |
| Females | 79 | 62 | 73 | 67 | 87 |

Death Rate per 1000
Resident Population

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <u>Mildenhall</u> Crude | 13.2 | 11.0 | 10.8 | 13.3 | 14.2 |
| Corrected | 11.7 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 10.9 | 11.6 |
| <u>England & Wales</u> | 14.3 | 12.1 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 12.1 |

In 1940 there were was one maternal death (Heading 30).

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age were 11 (5 males, all after the first month and before the ninth and 6 females, four in the first twenty-one days, one at eight weeks and one at eleven months).

Other deaths occurring in the non-age were 5 (3 males - Tubercular Meningitis 2 years, Knocked down by cyclist 5 years, Septic Meningitis 16 years and 2 females - Accidental scalds 3 years and haemolytic streptococcal septicaemia 12 years).

Death Rate of Infants under 1 Year.

| | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | 1936 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| All infants per 1000 live births | 54.5 | 36.8 | 34.3 | 61.4 | 43.5 |
| Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births | 55.8 | 37.8 | 35.3 | 63.3 | 45.5 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 25 | 19 | 18 | 21 | 22 |
| Deaths from Measles | Nil | Nil | Nil | 1 | 1 |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough | 1 | Nil | Nil | 1 | Nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years). | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

On the following page is a table giving the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures. Only direct comparison between totals for "All Causes" in previous years is possible - not between totals for individual causes - as, for 1940, the deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged list of Causes, as used in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, as set out on Page XXXIX of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Deaths - 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Deaths at the sub-joined ages of
"RESIDENTS" whether occurring in
or beyond District.

| Heading Number. | | Under 1 Year | | 1 and under 5 | | 5 and under 15 | | 15 and under 25 | | 25 and under 45 | | 45 and under 65 | | 65 and upwards | | Registrar General's Figures | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------|----|---------------|------|----------------|----|-----------------|------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------------------|----|---|
| | | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | |
| 2 | Cerebro-Spinal Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 4 | Whooping Cough | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 5 | Diphtheria | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 6 | Pulmonary Tuberculosis | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | - | - |
| 7 | Other Tuberculous Diseases | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 9 | Influenza | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | - |
| 13 | Cancer of buc:cav: & oesoph (M) uterus (F) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - |
| 14 | Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | - |
| 15 | Cancer of Breast | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| 16 | Cancer of all Other Sites | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 3 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 6 | - |
| 17 | Diabetes | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 18 | Intracran:vasc:lesions | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | - |
| 19 | Heart Disease | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | 22 | 16 | 23 | 19 | - |
| 20 | Other Diseases of Circulatory System | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - |
| 21 | Bronchitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | - |
| 22 | Pneumonia | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 4 | 1 | - |
| 23 | Other Respir: Diseases | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| 24 | Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - |
| 27 | Other Digestive Diseases | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 28 | Nephritis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | - |
| 30 | Other Maternal Causes | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 31 | Premature Births | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| 32 | Con: mal: birth injur: , infant diseases | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | - |
| 33 | Suicide | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| 34 | Road Traffic Accidents | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 35 | Other Violent Causes | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | - |
| 36 | All other Causes | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 15 | 10 | 17 | 13 | - | - |
| TOTAL. | | 5. | 6. | 1.1. | 1.1. | 1.1. | 2. | 2. | 4.6. | 9.4. | 70.51. | 92.79. | | | | | | |

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(ii)(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The adequate bacteriological service made possible financially to the District by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge, under the Directorship of Dr. A. . Downie, has been of great benefit to the District. Not only have specimens been examined at the Laboratory, but Dr. Downie and his staff also advised and assisted on the spot with the Diphtheria Immunisation.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.)

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.)

No change.

(d) CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES.)

(e) HOSPITALS.)

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.(1) WATER.

The pumping station and reservoir for the new public water supply scheme for Mildenhall and adjacent parishes were completed and came into operation in October. In the last quarter of the year 140 connections were made in respect of houses and premises, one connection, in some cases, serving two or more premises.

As the year ended the work at the new Moulton pumping station was nearing completion. The tower at Gazeley was tested in November. The mains in connection with this scheme were also completed except for short lengths in the parishes of Kentford and Gazeley.

At Brandon 3 connections were made to the existing public supply.

In 1940 the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge carried out bacteriological examinations on 121 samples taken from 48 sources, including the Council's 3 piped supplies. The analysis of the water of the Council's piped supplies always showed the water to be satisfactory, on the other hand, 39 of the remaining 45 sources were found on analysis to be unsatisfactory or have water of doubtful purity. 4 of these private sources were closed and the persons obtained water supplies from the public mains. Warning Notices were placed on all parish pumps and wells which gave unsatisfactory results of analyses.

Three Statutory Notices were served on an owner to sink a well at three cottages in one parish but was not complied with. The Council decided to take no further action at the present time. A Statutory Notice was also served on the owner of a dwelling house where supply was found unsatisfactory. The time limit in this case had not expired at the end of the year.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

With the advent of a public water supply seven houses have been provided with bathrooms and L.C.'s. In five cases this necessitated an extension of the existing drainage system. Seven entirely new systems were laid. All were tested and found satisfactory.

As there are no public sewers in the area cesspool drainage is employed. Nuisances from overfull cesspools were dealt with in seven cases. In two cases drains were defective and appropriate action taken. Eight new cesspools were constructed.

At Brandon the disused Fire Station was converted into a Public Convenience, completed and opened for use late in the year. The accommodation provided was decided upon before the outbreak of hostilities and was planned to meet the peacetime needs of the town. Four urinal stalls, one L.C., and washing facilities were provided in the men's convenience, while that for women has three L.C.'s in addition to washing facilities. The building is so planned that an additional L.C. can be added to the men's convenience when required. The Council have under consideration the provision of similar conveniences in Mildenhall.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The cleaning out of an open ditch taking the effluent from a small septic tank in connection with an Hotel was effected.

3.(i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year the following conversions were carried out:-

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| From vault or pail to L.C.'s | 9 |
| From vault to pail system. | 4 |
| Additional L.C. | 1 |

Pail Closets are emptied weekly as follows:-

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Mildenhall (part of) | 204 |
| Lakenheath | 207 |
| Brandon | 435 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Statutory Notices served in respect of nuisances in connection with vault closets | 3 |
|---|---|

The above Notices were complied with.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Scavenging schemes are in operation in the following parishes - Mildenhall (part of), Brandon, Lakenheath, Higham and Moulton.

Allied to scavenging is the important work of salvage. After considering various methods of dealing with this matter it was decided to enlist the co-operation of the Women's Institutes, Women's Club, First Aid Detachments and Schools. The Sanitary Inspector visited the Institutes and Schools in the 17 parishes and explained what was required.

Waste paper depots were set up in each village and collecting commenced in April, the Council arranging for the marketing of the various materials brought in. The amount collected to December 31st, which compares favourable with other similar Districts was:-

| | <u>tons</u> | <u>cwts</u> |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Paper | 51 | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Iron | 60 | 4 |
| Tins | 17 | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Rags | 1 | 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Bones | 4 | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Miscellaneous | | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Various Metals | | 2 |

From the sale of this salvage some £240. 0. 0d was obtained, all of which was returned to the parishes concerned after deducting a small percentage towards expenses.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. The following tabular statement is supplied by Mr. Trotter.

(a) Number of Inspections.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Inspection of Houses, Public Health and Housing Acts | 322 |
| Houses under Building Byelaws | 78 |
| Council House Management | 536 |
| Tents, Vans, Sheds | 4 |
| Factories | 17 |
| Shops | 32 |
| Schools | 29 |
| Cowsheds and Dairies | 23 |
| Slaughter Houses and premises | 69 |
| Casual slaughters | 10 |
| After Infectious Disease | 14 |
| Nuisances investigated | 53 |
| Number of samples of water taken | 121 |
| Miscellaneous - Interviews, A.R.P., Evacuation, War Damage, etc. | 909 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 2217 |
| | <hr/> |

(b) Number of notices served during the year

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Informal | 58 |
| Statutory | 16 |

(c) Notices complied with

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Informal | 53 |
| Statutory | 11 |

(2 outstanding - 3 water not proceeded with)

Factory Act, 1937.

Number of visits of inspection:-

| | |
|---|----|
| Factories with Power | 13 |
| Factories without " | 4 |
| Number of Factories in which limewashing and cleansing was called for | 2 |

These notices were complied with.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

The provisions of the Shop's Act, 1934 were stressed during the 32 visits of inspection carried out.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

There were 10 licensed sites in respect of moveable dwellings.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of visits of inspection | 4 |
| Informal Notices calling for the provision of closet accommodation | 1 |
| Statutory Notices calling for the provision of closet accommodation | 1 |

Both Notices were complied with

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was found necessary under this heading.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no privately owned or public swimming baths open to the public within the area.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No complaints of Bed Bugs in Council or other houses have been received.

4. SCHOOLS.

29 visits to school premises were made in connection with the washing and sanitary arrangements. Copies of the bacteriological reports on 12 samples of water taken from schools were forwarded to the Education Authority.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1.(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts | 384 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 326 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925. | - |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | - |
| (3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 21 |
| (4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation | 41 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers

| | |
|------------|----|
| By Owners | 34 |
| By Council | 21 |

3. Action under Statutory Powers During the Year.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit as the result of the service of Statutory Notices 6

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

Owing to the constant flow to and from the District of evacuees, relatives of service men, and pressure of other matters, an accurate numerical statement concerning Overcrowding throughout the year could not be compiled.

S E C T I O N E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Cowkeepers, many of whom are wholesale milk producers, buttermakers or producer retailers or all three 126

Note - 50 of the above cowkeepers sell milk by retail and are registered as retailers

Number of retailers who do not keep cows 2

Number of visits of inspection to Cowsheds and Diaries 25

Contravention found (Cleansing 5, Structural 1.) 6

These defects were remedied as the result of informal action. There were no Legal Proceedings.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

| | |
|--|------|
| Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses | 5 |
| Number of visits to Butchers' premises | 69 |
| Number of visits to Knackers' premises | 2 |
| Number of carcasses inspected | 341½ |
| (Bovines - 49½, Sheep - 177, Pigs - 115) | |

Meat unfit for food and disposed of as salvage -

Tuberculosis

Other Diseases

113 lbs Beef
4½ " Pork

56 Sheep
12 lbs Coked Ham

During the year the use of private Slaughterhouses for slaughter of animals for food for sale was prohibited and all meat since sold in the area is slaughtered outside the District.

(d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.) No change.

(e) NUTRITION.

Very important benefits should ensue from the almost total acceptance throughout the District of the National Milk Scheme introduced by Lord Woolton, Minister of Food, whereby 1 pint of milk per head per day is available to expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age not attending school, at 2d per pint without regard to income. To the same classes of people the same quantity is supplied free where the household income complies with certain requirements. Dried milk can be supplied in lieu of fresh milk.

(f) SHELL-FISH(Molluscan))
(g) WATER CRESS.) No change.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, & CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

The following tabel shows the number of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year:-

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1940

| Disease. | Total Cases notified. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 65 | Cases admit ted to Hosp-ital. | Total Deaths |
|----------------|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 17 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| Pneumonia | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 5 |
| Whooping Cough | 41 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Diphtheria | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Measles | 12 | - | - | 2 | - | - | 3 | 4 | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 75 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 13 | 29 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 3 | - | 3 | 7 |

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1940.

| | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|---------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 25 - 35 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| 35 - 45 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| 45 - 55 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | - | - | - |

The cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1940, and the same at the end of 1939, 1938, 1937 and 1936 were as follows:-

| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Total. | |
|----------|-----------|----|---------------|----|--------|----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 31.12.40 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 4 | 23 | 15 |
| 31.12.39 | 15 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 28 | 18 |
| 31.12.38 | 16 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 29 | 15 |
| 31.12.37 | 20 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 33 | 18 |
| 31.12.36 | 18 | 11 | 15 | - | 33 | 25 |

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

On Saturday, November 2nd, 1940, the illness of a 5 year old evacuee boy at Red Lodge, Freckenham, was reported to the Billeting Officer for that Parish. He very promptly had a Local Practitioner visit the boy - Laryngeal Diphtheria was diagnosed and notified to the Medical Officer of Health who had the boy moved to the Newmarket Isolation Hospital that afternoon where tracheotomy was found necessary.

Following conversation with Dr. Downie, Director, Medical Research Council's Emergency Public Health Laboratory, who offered to co-operate and later did give the most valuable help and with Dr. Banks, the Senior Regional Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, Cambridge, who gave provisional sanction for immunisation in the effected parish and with the authority, as a matter of urgency, of the Chairman of the Council, acceptance forms were prepared and distributed on the following day with the aid of the Correspondent of the Managers of Freckenham School, the Revd. Sowden, and the Head Mistress, Mrs. Potter.

The first stage of the Immunisation was carried out on Tuesday, November 5th, 1940, when 82 children (5 years or over) and 39 children (under 5 years) were treated.

Swabbing of contacts revealed that another boy was carrying the Diphtheria germ, he was given a preventative dose of antitoxin and did not develop any clinical signs - neither did further cases occur.

The National Drive for Diphtheria Immunisation began whilst further immunisation in this village was in progress. This Drive was carried on in the early months of 1941, so that 513 children under 5 years of age (estimated 47%) and 1485 children 5 years and over but under 15 (estimated 78%) completed the course.

